

REMARKS

This application is amended in a manner that is believed to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1, 10, 16, and 19 are amended. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification at page 7, lines 12-15, page 10, lines 1-5, and page 11, lines 13-24.

Claims 4, 6, 11, and 14 are canceled.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12, 13, and 15-19 remain pending in the application.

Claims 1-5, 7-12, and 14-19 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by AOKI et al. 5,382,295 ("AOKI"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 10, and 19 recite a liquid composition comprising a polyoxyalkylene alkyl ether of a non ionic surfactant in the form R-O-(CH₂CH₂O)_nH, where R is an 8 to 22 carbon alkyl group and n is an integer of 1 to 30. Claim 1 further recites an acidic pH.

AOKI discloses, at best, a composition comprising ethoxylated primary alcohols and modified polyethoxylated alcohols, providing as examples nonylphenol + 11 or 18 ethylene oxides. AOKI solely discloses alkaline solutions.

Thus, AOKI does not teach each and every feature recited in the independent claims, and cannot anticipate claims 1, 10 and 19, and dependent claim 2, 3, 5, 7-9, 12, 13 and 15-18.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6 and 10-19 were rejected under 35 USC §102 (b) as allegedly being anticipated by SATOSHI et al. JP 2000-219900 ("SATOSHI"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 10 and 19 recite a liquid composition comprising a polyoxyalkylene alkyl ether of a non ionic surfactant in the form R-O-(CH₂CH₂O)_nH, where R is an 8 to 22 carbon alkyl group and n is an integer of 1 to 30. Claim 1 further recites an acidic pH. Claim 10 further recites a total content of the polyoxyalkylene alkyl ether of nonionic is of 0.01 to 1 wt% of the composition. Claim 19 recites the total content of the phosphonic acid chelating agent and the polyoxyalkylene alkyl ether of nonionic surfactant in the liquid composition is 0.01 to 1 wt%.

With respect to claim 1, SATOSHI discloses a clothing detergent composition. While the Official Action states that SATOSHI discloses a pH in the Examples, it is not apparent from the Examples where "pH" is disclosed. Accordingly, SATOSHI does not teach each and every feature of claim 1.

With respect to claims 10 and 19, SATOSHI discloses a composition of 5-70 wt% nonionic surfactant of R₁-O-(CH₂CH₂O)_nAV-(CH₂CH₂CH₃O)_mAV-R₂ (where R₁=6-18C alkyl or alkenyl, m=0-15 and n=4-20) and 0.01-10 wt% of a phosphonic acid, a chelating agent.

Accordingly, SATOSHI teaches the total content of nonionic surfactant and chelating agent is at least 5.01% up to 80%. Thus, while SATOSHI may fairly disclose non-ionic surfactants similar to those of the present claims, SATOSHI does not teach each and every feature of the independent claim 10 and 19.

Therefore, in view of the above, SATOSHI cannot anticipate independent claims 1, 10 and 19, and dependent claim 2, 3, 5, 7-9, 12, 13 and 15-18, and applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over BESSHO et al. U.S. 6,440,856 ("BESSHO"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 10 and 19 recite a liquid composition comprising a polyoxyalkylene alkyl ether of a non ionic surfactant in the form R-O-(CH₂CH₂O)_nH, where R is an 8 to 22 carbon alkyl group and n is an integer of 1 to 30. Claim 1 further recites an acidic pH.

BESSHO discloses a composition comprising non-ionic surfactants including alkyl esters such as polyethylene glycol, alkyl ethers such as triethylene glycol monobutyl ether, esters such as polyoxysolbitan ester, and alkylphenols. However, BESSHO fails to disclose or suggest a polyoxyalkylene alkyl ether of a non ionic surfactant as recited in independent claims 1, 10 and 19.

Thus, BESSHO fails to teach the recited compositions of claims 1, 10 and 19, and BESSHO alone cannot render obvious independent claims 1, 10 and 19, and dependent claim 2, 3, 5, 7-9, 12, 13 and 15-18.

Therefore, applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action. Allowance and passage to issue on that basis is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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